

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 11-14 are added by the present response. Figures 11 and 12 were objected to. The Abstract was objected to. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 1,195,505 to Saino. Claims 2-4 were noted as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

Initially applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 2-4.

Addressing first the objection to Figures 11 and 12, Figures 11 and 12 are now labeled as "Background Art" to address the objection noted in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Further, the Specification is amended by the present response to correct minor grammatical and idiomatic informalities. The Abstract is also amended to address the objections thereto. The changes made to the Specification and Abstract are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claim 1 is amended by the present response as suggested on page 4 of the Office Action. Further, claim 4 is amended by the present response to now depend from claim 1, as also suggested on page 4 of the Office Action. The presently submitted amendments to claims 1 and 4 are believed to address the rejections thereto under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Saino, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify that the claimed elevator door closes and opens "an elevator opening on an elevator hall". Claim 1 also clarifies that the back board is "for facing the elevator opening". The above-noted structures are believed to distinguish over the teachings in Saino.

Saino is directed to a fire door or shutter. However, Saino does not disclose or suggest such a door being operable for closing and opening "an elevator opening", and particularly such that a back board portion can be structured "for facing the elevator opening". As noted above claim 1 is amended to clarify the structure in which the back board specifically faces "the elevator opening", and such a structure is believed to distinguish over Saino which is merely directed to a fire door or a shutter.

The present response also sets forth new claims 11-14 for examination. New independent claim 11 is similar to amended independent claim 1 except that new independent claim 11 sets forth a more specific structure of the claimed "connecting member".

Specifically, new independent claim 11 recites:

wherein said connecting member comprises a first connecting member for maintaining the fastening condition of said door panel and a second connecting member for losing the force of constraint against said surface board or said reinforcing member on high temperature conditions during a fire.


In such ways new independent claim 11 requires a structure of a connecting member with two different connecting elements, and more specifically the two different connecting elements have different behaviors during exposure to a fire. Such a structure can further prevent an elevator door from falling into an elevator opening as a result of a fire.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 11, and new claims 12-14 dependent therefrom, even further distinguish over the applied art to Saino. More particularly Saino does not teach or suggest that a connecting member includes two different types of connecting elements with different behaviors respective to a fire condition. Thus, new claims 11-14 further distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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